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T.V.V.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Applicant:** Richard K. Bolen      **Atty. Docket No.** 072398.00003  
**Serial No.:** 09/ 954,771      **Group Art Unit:** 3651  
**Filed:** September 18, 2001      **Examiner:** Gerald A. Anderson  
**Invention:** "SECURE MERCHANDISE-VENDING MACHINE"

AMENDMENT A

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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S I R:

**GROUP 3600**

In response to the Office Action dated December 19, 2002, Applicant requests that the claims be amended by substituting revised claims 1-4 as here enclosed in clean, and separately highlighted form.

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently Amended) A bulk vending machine having a base, said base having peripheral walls and a top frame secured therewith for enclosing a coin box on a plurality of sides and for supporting a merchandise container having four peripheral side walls secured to a bottom floor, a coin box in said base, a lid covering said merchandise container, [a first lock securing said lid to said base for preventing upward separation of said container from said base,] said base having a vertical front wall providing coin box access when said container floor and said base top frame are vertically separated, [pivotal forwardly about its lower edge when released by relative upward movement of said merchandise container], and a [second] lock engagable when said container is resting snugly on top of the base frame positively